

**SEMESTER 1 Term 1
NEWSLETTER No. 3**

9 MARCH 2006

**FROM THE
PRINCIPAL'S DESK**

Dear Parents

CYBER-BULLYING:

Last week was a very difficult week for us. We had to deal with a number of cases involving bullying. Our school has a Bullying Policy in place. In short, it is a *zero-tolerance* policy. One of the shortfalls in our system is that we can only respond if we *know* about an incident. The primary school has had a Bullying Education Programme in place for a year now and the Middle School will begin its own programme in a week or two's time. We find that generally, bullying is no longer an issue in the Senior School at TCC but we continue to be vigilant, never the less. A large part of these programmes is designed to educate students to the fact that they have a right to ask for help and that this should not be construed as "dobbing in." Every student at TCC has the right to attend school in a non-threatening, peaceful environment

One of last week's incidents involved a relatively new phenomenon – Cyber-bullying. Yes, it even has a name – and based upon some of our findings during the investigation, it is far more wide-spread and insidious than might be expected.

The Bible tells us that the tongue is sharper than the sharpest knife. A little time spent in an internet "chat room" will lend weight to this Biblical analogy. On some sites "Chatters" engage in a level of filth, bad language and obscenity that boggles the mind. In many cases this slander targets individuals – possibly your son or daughter. When the age of some of the perpetrators is taken into account, the shock really sets in.

If your child has unchecked access to a computer and the internet, you might want to assess what they are being exposed to. During my investigation I had cause to speak with

members from the Police Computer Division. It appears that we have merely scraped the tip of a really enormous iceberg!

We, as a school, are so concerned by this phenomenon that we are creating a sub-committee of concerned parents to organise a Parent Forum where we can try to educate our parent community on the dangers of this type of activity and the precautions that can be taken in the home. One of the police officers I spoke to has agreed to come and address us and advise us on these issues.

More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

In the meantime it is important for you to know that, despite the fact that these websites are created outside of the school environment, the school retains the right to intervene where the content of these sites is deemed to be having a negative influence on students at school. This point of view has been confirmed through legal representation and relates to our Duty of Care responsibilities.

I trust that the TCC community will unite in addressing this very un-Christian, unpleasant and unacceptable practise.

BUILDING PROGRESS AT TCC:

On a more positive note, if you have visited our school recently, you may have noticed a flurry of activity on the far side of the oval. Yes, our long-awaited new buildings are taking shape! Included are two new purpose-built Science laboratories, and Preparation Area plus a new Home Economics Room with a dedicated Preparation Area. We are also looking at including two new Learning Areas that can be joined to form one large (100m²) work area. All of this will be under the cover of one roof.

Other good news is that our new double classroom and toilet block for the primary school may well be completed ahead of schedule and in place before the close of school this term. This is going to have a very positive impact on our growing primary school!

Finally, we are undertaking some enlargements to our Manual Arts Centre. We give thanks to MMM for their commitment to assist in this project, thus curbing some of the costs involved.

Please keep our school and its expansion programme in your prayers.

**BILL INNES
ACTING PRINCIPAL**

FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR

It's hard to believe that we are now in week six, over the half way mark of term one. Term one is a very busy time with all the happenings of the new school year, Parent evenings, College services, Swimming carnivals and other College events.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Once again we are rewarding the students with commendations, Bronze, Silver or Gold for a number of things achieved throughout College life.

Congratulations to **Alisha Simpson** on receiving thirty commendations. Alisha was presented with a **silver certificate** at assembly last week.

SENIOR COLLEGE BALL

All Year 11 & 12 students and parents of the Year 12's have received an invitation to the Senior College Ball for 2006. A reminder that the deposit for the Ball is due on or before March 13.

STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING

SWL is a Wholly School Assessed subject and provides a wonderful opportunity for students in Year 11 & 12 to gain an insight into the occupation that they are aspiring to enter after TAFE or University studies. A reminder to all students enrolled in this subject to return their choices of Industry so that placements can be arranged.

STUDY AND HOMEWORK TIMETABLES

All students in the Senior School should have by now a workable study timetable. Thank you to parents who have endeavoured to assist their children in putting this together. I am sure that if we all work together on this project we will see an improvement, not only in their work ethic, but in their performance and results. If at this point you haven't seen or had input into their timetable you may wish to discuss the matter with them.

ACADEMIC GOAL SETTING BOOKLETS.

It is obvious from the returned booklets that parents have been a great assistance in discussing and helping their child to list some realistic goals. For this we are very appreciative. However these were to be returned by February 28 and to date only 12% have been returned. It is very important that these be given a high priority of importance and returned by Friday so that staff can commence working with each student to ensure they reach the goals set.

EXCURSIONS

Each year the different learning areas organize a large number of excursions across all year groups as part of our learning and teaching programme. We feel that the benefits from such excursions are invaluable as the students are able to experience their learning first hand, outside the classroom, in the real world. These excursions take a great deal of organizing and would not take place if not for the dedication of the staff concerned for each. The following are the excursions organized within the next couple of weeks.

March 10 – YEAR 12 DRAMA STUDIES

Small Group Moderation

Sommerville Baptist 3.30 -5.15 pm

March 16 - YEAR 11 HUMAN BIOLOGY

The Zoo - Teacher – Mr Chan

MATH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME - CURTIN UNIVERSITY 2006

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Curtin University is running a Mathematics Enrichment programme for students in Years 5 – 11 after school on several days of the week. The programme is suitable for a broad range of mathematically talented students. The main aim is to develop a sound mathematical understanding and to develop a range of mathematical problem-solving skills. Students will be issued a certificate upon completion of the course. Further details are available through the university at www.maths.curtin.edu.au/students/enrichment. Applications close on Monday May 1 2006.

FORMER STUDENT NEWS

2006 seems to be the year for engagements and marriages. We congratulate and wish the following God's richest blessings as they commence on a new journey together.

ENGAGEMENTS –

Brad Palmer (1995) to Joanne

Alison Hart (1999) to Piers McCarney

Kim Pearson (1999) to Chris Connolly

Chris Pike (1999) to Genelle Holliday

Sally Cathles (2002) to Karl Florisson

Robert Furlong (2004) to Kaylee Pitts

WEDDINGS

Kimberly Munyard to Brett Edwards (1999)

Katie York (2003) to Ben Hondema

Alyce Ryan (2003) to Darren Paige

Naomi Mattner (2004) to Luke Mason

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Born to **Mr and Mrs Polkinghorne (Kerry)** a son Laird (9 lb 3 oz) on March 5. Both very well.

MRS HELEN BALDING

SENIOR SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR

FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Can you believe it? Week 6 already!

The dust has well and truly settled on the start of 2006 and the students are working well. Relationships usually seem to be a major focus for students over these first few weeks and this year has been no exception. Can I ask you to continue to encourage your child to be happy with whom God has made them to be and make friends with as many other students as possible? As you may remember from your own adolescence, this is a time when young teens are heavily influenced by who they watch on the T.V., movies or sporting fields. They are also influenced by their peers with things like fashion, behaviour and interests.

I was looking at some quotes today and found one that I felt was appropriate with these things in mind, it is by Judy Garland: **'Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else!'** In other words, be the very best person that God has intended for you to be. As Christians, we believe the only one to model ourselves on is Christ and if that is our aim, how could we fail?

A couple of reminders.

- Yr 7 immunization forms should all be in by now, ready in advance for Thursday March 23rd.
- Please ensure that when you sign your child's diary every week, that there is something to sign. If the page is empty, please ask some questions.

Have a great week!

**PETER WORTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR**

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Isn't the term flying? We are already half way through and so much has been accomplished. Everyone has been working so hard and we trust that the students have settled into their routines and that we can look forward to the rest of the term running smoothly along. We would like to thank parents for your ongoing support in regard to the wearing of correct uniforms, encouraging homework completion and your children's positive behaviour in general. When we work in harmony together, parents and school, we will reap the benefits.

The Primary School Swimming Carnival was held on Tuesday with students from Years 3 to 6 competing. We thank the Lord that it ran smoothly and safely. It is truly a blessing to

witness the great sportsmanship displayed amongst the houses, with everyone cheering each other on and generally having a great time.

Thank you to the two 'lifesavers' that remained in the water the whole time. They certainly did their job well and rescued a few very 'puffed' out swimmers. Thank you Mr Harders and Mr Munyard.

All of our appreciation goes to the Phys Ed Department staff, Mr Harders and Miss McCormick who with the help of Mr Splatt organized our carnival. A huge amount of time, effort and organization is needed in order to produce a carnival that runs as smooth as this one did. It has been a very busy time for our Phys Ed Staff as this was one of their first carnivals and with everything, hiccups do happen. One such hiccup is that we found out that using a 'noodle' is a much easier thing than trying to stay afloat on a 'dolphin', but let's remember that with experience, time and lots of encouragement we can smooth over these little hiccups.

Thanks must also go to all the parents who came to cheer (yes we noticed the 'purple ladies'), and to those who offered to help, you are very much appreciated.

Not to be left out, Kindy to Year Four are very much looking forward to the puppet show coming up next Monday. It should be a wonderful incursion, and we hope to get some great photos of the students enjoying themselves.

As we work on the partnership of school and home, can we please remind parents of a few issues that tend to come up every now and then? We have had a bit of difficulty keeping older children out of the Pre-primary/Kindy enclosure after school hours. Parents please make sure that you do pick your children up on time and move off to the car as soon as possible. Talking in the car park is not safe, much safer and nicer at a coffee shop or be a little earlier and use our bus shelter facilities. Also please refrain from crossing the car park between the buses as this can be very dangerous and children tend to copy adults. Another issue is the starting time for school and late children. Students are expected to be in class and ready to start the day by 8:50am and could we also remind parents that if you need to see the teacher, please make an appointment as the start of the day is generally the busiest part and they find it difficult to give you the attention needed.

Once again thank you for your support, we are greatly encouraged by your enthusiasm to be a part of our community and we trust that the second half of term one will be as rewarding as the first.

**SUE YARDLEY & CORRINA KEANE
PRIMARY SCHOOL CO-ORDINATORS**

ASTHMA INFORMATION

IF you have a child who has asthma, or your child has a friend or sibling with asthma, set aside April 20 and 21 during the next school holidays so they can participate in a fun event with a serious message and a focus on exercise.

Triple 'E' Asthma Challenge combines Entertainment, Exercise and Education on asthma for kids 8-12 years. The Asthma Foundation of WA's inaugural event will be held at Melville Recreation Centre and welcomes children with asthma, their brothers, sister and friends. Participants will be involved in a variety of sport and recreation activities which could include soccer, volleyball, art, bounce castle and slide, giant bubble workshops, human soccer table, karate, art/crafts. Each day the children will join one education session and learn about asthma issues, including symptoms, exercise-induced asthma, medications and first-aid. The cost is \$50 which covers both days and there are discounts for families.

For more information and bookings call Beth on 9289 3643.

People with asthma in their lives can come together to meet and share experiences through The Asthma Foundation of WA's Asthma Support Group.

The next meetings of this social group will be on Monday, 3rd April at Melville Recreation Centre, and on Monday 26th June at Westfield Public Library. Both meetings will run from 10.00am – 11.30am and morning tea will be provided. An asthma educator will be on hand to answer any questions and bookings can be made to Vanessa on 9289 3602.

According to Asthma Foundation of WA Community Education and Project Officer Jodie Elvin the support group provides a forum for people to provide and receive emotional support, share tips and strategies.

"The meetings may be a springboard to a variety of social events" she said. The Asthma Support Group is a new Foundation project and the first two meeting were held in West Perth. Meetings are also planned for other metropolitan locations.

Understanding why your school is using the Method of Shared Concern in managing bullying incidents and how it works:

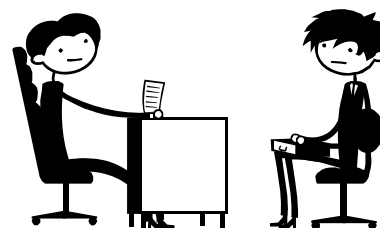
THE METHOD OF SHARED CONCERN

The key to stopping bullying is getting those involved to talk about what is happening and decide on some ways to overcome the problem. The Friendly Schools and Families Program recommends schools use the Method of Shared Concern to encourage children to talk about bullying incidents. Parents can also use this strategy at home.

The Method of Shared Concern aims to change the behaviour of students who are bullying and to improve the situation for the student being bullied. This method helps students to develop empathy and concern for others and gives them strategies to help them get along better with others in the school and at home. The Staff at our school are trained to use the Method of Shared Concern.

What happens in shared concern?

1. Individual meetings are held with each of the students involved in the bullying incident: the student or students bullying, the person being bullied and any bystanders who may have seen what was happening.
2. Each Student is asked about the problem and to suggest ways he or she personally could help to improve the situation.
3. The student being bullied is also given the opportunity to discuss what happened and encouraged to think of ways to improve the situation.
4. There are follow-up meetings, discussions and planning that give students the opportunity to change and improve attitudes and behaviours and to put these into practice in a supportive environment.



GENERAL INFORMATION

CHANGES TO THE COLLEGE CALENDAR FOR PUPIL FREE DAYS

We have had to make four adjustments to the calendar because of the development of Years 11 & 12 courses for the new Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)

We have specifically chosen these dates in the hope that any inconvenience for our families would be minimized by abutting the professional development days against weekends.

On April 13 Senior School teachers involved with Phase 2 implementation of the new Certificate will be attending Curriculum Council training. Other College staff will be working on course development within their own Learning Areas.

On Friday June 2, Monday July 24 and Monday October 16 there will be a similar programme involving teachers throughout the College.

I am sure that all parents are aware of the issues connected with the new Certificate and Courses of Study as printed in the newspaper. One of our major concerns expressed has been the difficulty of teachers who must continue to teach and at the same time develop an entire new syllabus and courses of study for Year 11 and then Year 12. We sincerely appreciate and acknowledge the dedication of the staff involved in this new process, the way they have accepted the challenge in preparing all the necessary materials to ensure a smooth and effective transition and as well their use of their own time for additional meetings.

MRS HELEN BALDING

SCHOOL HEALTH NURSE

Our School Health Nurse from Armadale Health Service is Jenny Newton and can be contacted on 9313 5418. Jenny is available to see students with health related concerns at school. Should you wish your child to see the nurse, please complete and sign a referral form, available at the school office.

Immunisation

Remember that once your child turns 4 years of age they are due for their preschool boosters. These can be given by your family doctor, at the Central Immunisation Clinic, West Perth (9321 1312), or at some local govt immunisation clinics. After this immunisation, please ensure an updated copy of the immunisation record is forwarded to the school office.

Thank you.

**Jenny Newton
School Health Nurse**



THORNIE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONCERT

**Thursday 30 March 2006
Gosnells Baptist Church
2378 Albany Highway
(Cnr. Verna Street) Gosnells
7:00 p.m.
Please diarize and plan to be in
attendance.**

FOR SALE

Second Hand Footy Boots
(Soccer Boots)
Very Good Condition
Puma Duofley Size 10 (U.S.)
\$25.00
PH: 9417 7313

UNIFORM SHOP

NEW DAYS FOR THE UNIFORM SHOP COMMENCING FIRST WEEK OF 2ND TERM

MONDAY and THURSDAY

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thank you to those who put orders in before
9 March. Remaining balance is due 9th
week Term 1 (30th March).

MORE HELPERS ARE NEEDED!!

**ROBBIE WOJCIK
UNIFORM SHOP**

WE SAY FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO MRS BETH HART

It is always sad to have to say farewell to a staff member, particularly one who has been on staff at the College for over eleven years and prior to that a parent at the College. This week we say farewell to Mrs Beth Hart. Beth leaves the College having made an enormous contribution in so many areas of the College, a monitor/supervisor in the days of A.C.E. assistant in the Phys Ed department, receptionist/secretary in Student Services and Parent Services, driver of the buses, involved as an umpire in College Netball teams, and in recent years Personal Assistant to Mrs Balding and the Senior School. Beth has been one who has willingly taken on any responsibility given her over the years and done it to perfection. She has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the College and has been an inspiration and friend to all that have had the pleasure of meeting and working with her. We sincerely thank her for her service, loyalty and dedication to Thornlie Christian College and wish her every happiness and God's richest blessings as she takes a rest and prepares for a new challenge and a new journey wherever that may be.

Mrs Green has now been appointed to the position of Personal Assistant to Mrs Balding and the Senior School. Mrs Deb Heathcote is now Receptionist in Student Services and Mrs Robbie Wojcik is in charge of the Uniform Department.

Mrs Helen Balding